Implementation of schemes by private and public sector

†2956. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system regarding implementation of Government's development schemes by the joint enterprises of private sector and public sector may be the first step towards privatisation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has decided to implement the said system throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the benefits of implementing this system comprising private sector and public sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir. There is no such system.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Mitigation of regional inequalities

2957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps for mitigating backwardness and regional inequalities;

(b) whether Prime Minister had committed for mitigating backwardness and regional inequalities;

(c) if so, what is being considered in this regard; and

(d) what prevents the Central Government from considering Bihar's claim for rehabilitation following the devastating Kosi floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Reducing backwardness and regional inequalities has been one of the objectives of planning since its inception. Although, planning and development of an area and allocation of funds is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, Central Government is committed to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for mitigating regional inequalities. The Government of India introduced the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07 designed to address this issue and aiming at catalyzing development in backward areas by (a) providing infrastructure, (b) promoting good governance and agrarian reforms, and (c) converging, through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing development inflows into the identified districts. The programme has two components, namely, the Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) Districts of Orissa and the Districts Component covering 250 backward districts. An annual allocation of Rs. 5800 crore is being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

made for this programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Government has also introduced many flagship programmes and other schemes in the recent past for accelerating growth and development of different sectors such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Bharat Nirman launched as a time bound business plan for rural infrastructure, etc. These schemes would help in mitigating regional inequalities.

(d) Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided to the States from the Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is supplemented by the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the wake of calamities of severe nature for immediate relief operations.

State of Bihar has been allocated an amount of Rs. 162.48 crore in the CRF for the year 2008-09 comprising Rs. 121.86 crore as Central Share and Rs. 40.62 crore as State share. Entire Central share of CRF had been released to the State.

Further, as per laid down procedure for additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), the High Level Committee (HLC), approved (i) Rs. 497.35 crore for management of Kosi flood from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of 75% balance available in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity, (ii) The actual cost of deployment of IAF charges for airdropping of essential supplies.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 117.21 crore has been recommended by HLC as additional requirement over and above the extant norms for providing assistance to the families in dire need of immediate sustenance as well as operation of relief camps for the period over and above specified in the CRF norms. Action has been initiated to provide the recommended amount of Rs. 117.21 crore to the State Government.

In addition to above, additional assistance of the order of Rs. 2273.15 crore approximately, has been approved by other Central Ministries for rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in the context of Kosi flood of 2008.

Growth targets and expectations

2958. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of growth targets/expectations, sector-wise over the next five years set by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): The growth target of different sectors for the next five years are not available. However, the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) aims at achieving an average growth rate of 9 percent per annum (expressed in terms of gross domestic product at factor cost). The target growth rate is 4 percent per year in agriculture sector, 10 to 11 per cent per year in the industrial sector and 9 to 11 per cent per annum in the services sector for the five year period of the Eleventh Plan.